

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-12 (canceled).

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

13. (new) Inoculating alloy for cast iron containing, by weight, 0.005 to 3% of at least one element selected from the group consisting of bismuth, lead and antimony, 0.3 to 10% of at least one rare earth group metal, and optionally up to 5% of aluminum and up to 1.5% of calcium, the remainder being ferro-silicon,

wherein lanthanum makes up at least 90% by weight of said at least one rare earth metal.

14. (new) Alloy according to claim 13, containing from 0.3 to 8% by weight of lanthanum and from 0.2 to 1.5% of bismuth.

15. (new) Alloy according to claim 13, containing between 0.7 and 1.3% by weight of bismuth.

16. (new) Alloy according to claim 13, containing between 0.5 and 5% by weight of lanthanum.

17. (new) Alloy according to claim 13, containing between 0.8 and 5% by weight of aluminum.

18. (new) Alloy according to claim 17, containing between 1 and 3.5% by weight of aluminum.

19. (new) Alloy according to claim 13, which is in powder form.

20. (new) Alloy according to claim 13, which is in slug form for treatment in a mold.

21. (new) Alloy according to claim 20, wherein the slug is obtained by molding from molten alloy.

22. (new) Alloy according to claim 20, wherein the slug is obtained by agglomeration of a powder.

23. (new) Alloy according to claim 22, wherein the powder

has a grain size smaller than 1 mm, with a size fraction between 50 and 250  $\mu\text{m}$  making up more than 35% of the powder by weight, and a fraction smaller than 50  $\mu\text{m}$  making up less than 25%.

24. (new) Alloy according to claim 22, wherein an average alloy composition is obtained by mixing alloy powders with different compositions.

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